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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 00291 141659 Z

40
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 RSR-01 /109 W
---------- 052108
R 141235 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3037
INFO AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0291

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, LT
SUBJ: PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENTS

REF : A. MASERU 277
B. MASERU 231

1. JONATHAN DELIVERED ADDRESS MORNING MAR 12.

2. IN INTERVIEW BROADCAST BY RADIO LESOTHO EVENING MAR 12, BCP LEADER MOKHEHLE STATED HE " HAD NO KNOWLEDGE WHATSOEVER OF ANY CONSULTATIONS IN RECENT DAYS AND ACTIONS TO WHICH CHIEF LEABUA MIGHT BE REFERRING." CHARACTERIZED PM' S STATEMENT AS DELIBERATELY VAGUE AND DISTINCTIVELY FALSE IF IT MEANT TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT BCP HAD HAD CONSULTATIONS OR AGREEMENTS OF ANY DESCRIPTION WITH GOVERNMENT. HE REFERRED TO RECENT PARTY STATEMENT (PARA 4 REF B) AS SETTING FORTH BCP POSITION.

3. ON MAR 13, LEANYA (MFP) AND MOFELI (UDP) BOTH WELCOMED PM' S ANNOUNCEMENT.

4. JONATHAN TOLD ME AT RECEPTION MAR 12 THAT HE UNDERSTOOD
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MOKHEHLE DISSATISFIED, AND EXPRESSED SOME PUZZLEMENT AS HE HAD CHOSEN HIS WORDS VERY CAREFULLY TO MEET WHAT HE HAD UNDERSTOOD TO BE MOKHEHLE' S RESERVATIONS AS EXPRESSED IN MOST RECENT STATEMENT. HE FELT ONLY SOLUTION WAS FOR HIM TO TALK PERSONALLY WITH MOKHEHLE AND ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENT. HE PLANNED TO MEET WITH HIM IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

5. COMMENT: WHILE JONATHAN' S PUZZLEMENT MAY BE SLIGHTLY DISINGENUOUS, HIS DESIRE TO BRING MOKHEHLE AROUND SEEMS BOTH SINCERE AND WELL- FOUNDED. MORE PUZZLING THAN MOKHEHLE' S DISSATISFACTION, THEREFORE, IS JONATHAN' S FAILURE TO CONSULT HIM BEFORE MAKING HIS ANNOUNCEMENT.
FRISBIE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: PINT, LT
To: AF
CAPE TOWN
GABORONE
LONDON
MBABANE
PRETORIA
SECSTATE WASHDC

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